

RESOLUTION  
OF THE  
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS  
**By Reich and Gordon**

**Establishing recycling and composting goals for the City of Minneapolis.**

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is committed to citywide economic opportunity, social equality, and environmental health for its residents and businesses; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis is committed to being a leader as one of the most sustainable cities in the United States by establishing mandatory multi-unit and commercial recycling ordinances in 1996 and 2011 respectively; and

Whereas, in 2014 the State of Minnesota has established recycling and composting goals for metropolitan counties of 75 percent by weight of total solid waste generation by the end of 2030; and

Whereas, Minnesotans produce, on average, more than one ton of municipal solid waste per person per year, over five and a half tons annually, a substantial amount of which is placed into landfills or incinerated, resulting in wasted resources; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis provides integrated solid waste services to residents, such as one-sort recycling, recyclable bulky item collection, and organics recycling programs, that are designed to increase waste diversion; and

Whereas, in 2013 the City of Minneapolis adopted preliminary recycling and composting goals in its Climate Action Plan as a part of reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis acknowledges the challenges ahead and the need to collaborate with partners, including Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, and other community and industry stakeholders; and

Whereas, Hennepin County has established programs to support commercial recycling and organics collection, household hazardous waste disposal, and reuse; and

Whereas, the City adopted an Environmental Purchasing Policy in 2008 and strives to maximize diversion from internal operations through waste reduction measures; and

Whereas, the City supports Extended Producer Responsibility for product design to ensure items can be recycled safely back into the marketplace; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis recognizes the difficulties in measuring progress in the commercial, industrial and multi-unit sectors that are not serviced by Public Works and will work with the above partners and stakeholders to develop methods to track results; and

Whereas, the Zero Waste Policy work group, convened and chaired by the Mayor, with Council Members at her request, will continue to provide overall guidance on strategies and policy plans to move towards zero waste.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That in an effort to recognize waste as a resource and move toward zero waste that the City of Minneapolis establishes a comprehensive citywide recycling and composting goal of 50% by 2020 and 80% by 2030, and achieve a zero percent growth rate in the total waste stream from 2010 levels.

Be it Further Resolved, in order to reach these goals Solid Waste & Recycling and Sustainability staff are directed to work with the Mayor's office, City Council staff and the Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission to organize meetings of community stakeholders representing a broad range of interests and perspectives on waste prevention, recycling, and composting.

Be it Further Resolved that a zero waste plan will be developed for City Council consideration in the spring of 2016.